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AQUAMAN

**HAIL
AND FAREWELL,
HERO...**



...YOU'RE THE FIRST CASUALTY IN
"THE **WATERY WAR** OF THE
WEATHER WIZARD"



Super

BODYBUILDING COURSE -

INTRODUCING

THE BODYBUILDING SYSTEM THAT GUARANTEES -
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MUSCLES ON YOUR BODY!**

At last, NEW bodybuilding secrets are now available for your use. Finally, after years of experimenting we have come up with the fastest muscle building system in the world. Our course really works - thousands have taken our course and have obtained fantastic results. Right in the privacy of your own bedroom, you can completely transform your body.

SEE YOUR MUSCLES GROW DAY BY DAY!

You can have POWERFUL MUSCLES FAST . . . not by years and years of hard work . . . but by simply following our fascinating system . . . a system that works so fast you can see results from day to day! Isn't that the kind of course you want? We absolutely guarantee results.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE LETTERS WE HAVE RECEIVED -

"Wow! I'm making fantastic gains, following your new method of muscle building. I never knew it could be so easy to build muscles." J. Johnson

"In just 3 weeks I have gained 1½" on my arms and 4" on my chest. I have also lost 4" off my waist. Your course is just great!" D. Roberts

"I was a skinny weakling when I enrolled, now I've gained 30 pounds in just 45 days. I am truly amazed, I'm going to be dynamite on the beach." B. Abbott

"I'm transforming all the fat off my body and changing it into rock-hard muscle. It's amazing - I have lost 8" off my waist. I can actually see my muscles growing from day to day." P. Williams

"I have gained 20 pounds in just 30 days and I have gained over 6 inches on my chest. I find that my power has doubled. In sports I am a winner in everything I do." B. Daniels

"I have gained 5" on my arms and 12" on my chest, while losing 3" off my waist. I have tripled my power and speed. Thanks for what you have done for me!" M. Robinson



MORRIE MITCHELL GAINED 65 POUNDS OF MUSCLE WHILE FOLLOWING OUR 'REVOLUTIONARY NEW METHODS' ON BODYBUILDING.

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- ★ TRIM YOUR WAIST by following ultra-modern methods. It won't take long before your waist shows washboard abdominal muscles.
- ★ GAIN WEIGHT - You can actually gain up to 50 pounds of rock-hard muscle.
- ★ LOSE FAT - You'll find it easy to get rid of excess fat and replace it with muscle.
- ★ FEEL 100% BETTER - You can't help but feel great once you own a muscular body.

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FREE!



Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

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MAIL TODAY



HE WAS BORN ARTHUR CURRY, HALF-BREED SON OF MAN AND MERMAID, AND ROSE FROM THOSE UNIQUE ORIGINS TO BECOME RULER OF THE MIGHTY SEA-KINGDOM OF ATLANTIS. NOW, HE HAS RELINQUISHED THAT THRONE, CHOOSING INSTEAD TO REMAIN THE DAUNTLESS DEFENDER OF ALL THE SEVEN SEAS, THE VALIANT SUPER-HERO CALLED...

AQUAMAN

THAT'S RIGHT, CLOWN--RUN, FOR ALL THE GOOD IT'LL DO YA! JUST REMEMBER THAT A SINGLE MISSTEP, ONE CARELESS STUMBLE--

--AND YOU'RE FRIED, FISH-MAN! HA HA HA!!



Jim Aparo

KZZTT

THE WATERY WAR OF THE WEATHER WIZARD

DAVID MICHELINIE - WRITER
LIZ BERUBE - COLORIST

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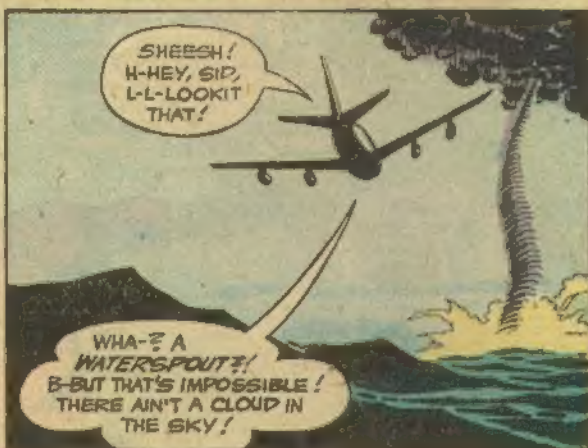
IT IS WINTER, BUT THE WEATHER OVER THE SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN REMAINS WARM, AS MILD AND PREDICTABLE AS THE CONVERSATION OCCURRING SEVERAL MILES OFF THE FLORIDA COAST...



SO TELL ME, SID, YOU BELIEVE IN ALL THIS BERMUDA TRIANGLE MUMBO-JUMBO?

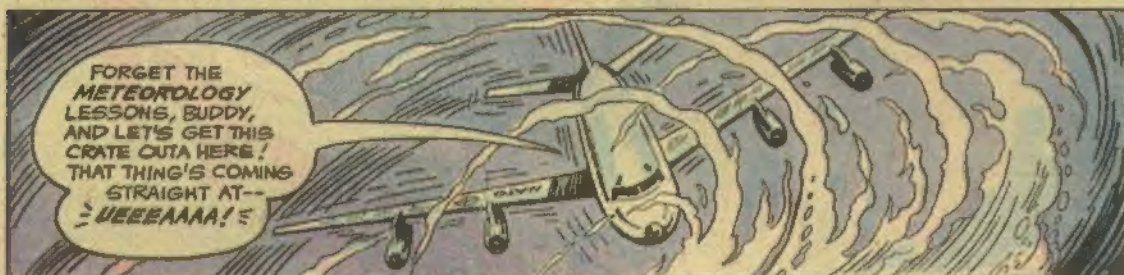


HMPH! WOULD I BE FLYIN' RIGHT THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF THE THING IF I DID? NAH, YA ASK ME, IT'S ALL A BUNCH OF BALONEY. JUST ONE BIG CROCK--

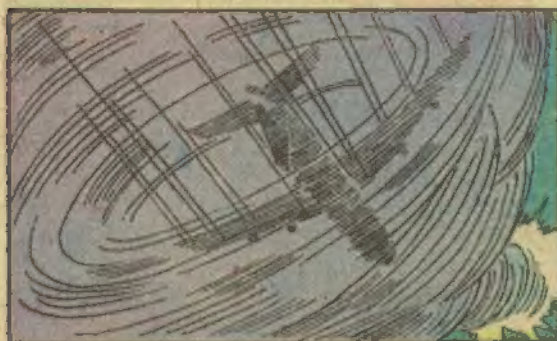


SHEESH! H-HEY, SID, L-L-LOOKIT THAT!

WHA-? A WATERSPOUT?! B-BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THERE AIN'T A CLOUD IN THE SKY!



FORGET THE METEOROLOGY LESSONS, BUDDY, AND LET'S GET THIS CRATE OUTA HERE! THAT THING'S COMING STRAIGHT AT--
= UEEEEAAAA! =



IT IS WINTER, BUT THE WEATHER OVER THE SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN REMAINS WARM, AS MILD AND PREDICTABLE AS THE SILENCE OCCURRING SEVERAL MILES OFF THE FLORIDA COAST...



AND HOURS LATER, SOME LEAGUES EASTWARD IN THE FABULOUS AQUACAVE, A MONITOR SCREEN FLICKERS TO LIFE...

--ANOTHER MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE IN THE TRIANGLE AREA, AQUAMAN. ONLY THIS ONE COULD HAVE MORE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS THAN MOST!

THIS TIME IT WAS A NATO CARGO JET CARRYING THE PROTOTYPE OF A NEW MEDICAL BREAK-THROUGH--THE VIBROJECTOR...

... AN EXPERIMENTAL DEVICE THAT EMITS COUNTER-VIBRATIONS TO SLOW THE PULSE RATE OF HEART ATTACK VICTIMS SUFFERING SPASMIC PALPITATIONS. WHEN PERFECTED, IT COULD SAVE THOUSANDS OF LIVES!

ONLY IT WON'T BE PERFECTED UNLESS WE FIND IT! AND FOR THAT, WE NEED YOUR HELP! CAN WE COUNT ON IT--?

HE IS CALLED "HERO", AND WITH THAT LABEL COMES A CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITY...

HUSBAND--?

KLIK

AND SO WHEN THE RESPONSE TO GENERAL HORGAN'S QUESTION COMES, IT COMES NOT IN WORDS--

-- BUT IN ACTIONS...

TOPO-- TAKE CARE OF ARTHUR, JR. WHILE WE'RE GONE!

MILES AND MOMENTS PASS AS THE DESTINATION IS NEARED, AS TWO LITHE FIGURES CLEAVE WATER AS GRACEFULLY AS A SPARROW CLEAVES--

--AIR?!

HUH? AN AIR POCKET-- IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ATLANTIC?!

STAY BACK, MERA, UNTIL I CAN FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING--



--ON...F

WHO--

THE NAME,
YOU
COSTUMED
CREEPO--



--IS WEATHER
WIZARD! AND I
SUGGEST YOU TAKE
THAT KNOWLEDGE AND
SPLIT WHILE YOU CAN!
I'VE GOT NO QUARREL
WITH YOU!

IT'S THAT BLASTED
SCARLET SPEEDSTER
I'M AFTER!

YOU MEAN...
THE FLASH?



YOU GOT IT, PAL!
THAT RATTY ROAD-
RUNNER'S HUMILIATED
ME FOR THE LAST TIME!
NOW IT'S HIS TURN!

'CAUSE IF THIS
VIBRATION
GADGET CAN
SLOW DOWN A
HEARTBEAT,
IT CAN SURE
SLOW DOWN
THE FLASH--

--AT LEAST
LONG ENOUGH
FOR ME TO DO
HIM IN!



THAT WATERSPOUT
AND THE TWIN TIDAL
WAVES THAT ARE HOLD-
ING THE OCEAN BACK
TOOK A LOT OF TROUBLE
TO CREATE, BUT THEY'RE
ONLY A HINT OF WHAT I'D
GO THROUGH TO TAKE
OUT THAT FLASHY
DO-GOODER!



SO NOW THAT
YOU KNOW THE GAME,
FRIEND--WHY DON'T
YOU JUST RUN ALONG
BEFORE--

IN TWO
WORDS, WIZARD
--NO WAY!

Wonder Woman

AND CUP CAKES

"THE MALTESE CUP CAKE"

WONDER WOMAN, YOU MUST HELP ME. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN.

HOW... MR. ASTOR?

HELP ME FIND THE MALTESE CUP CAKE... THAT MYSTERIOUS, FABLED, LEGENDARY IDOL... I MUST HAVE IT... BECAUSE I MUST HAVE IT!!!

ENTER PETULA LORRY, SNIVELING, SHADOWY HENCHWOMAN, AS IF FROM NOWHERE.

PSST!!! MEY, STRONG LADY... I CAN TELL YOU WHERE THE ELUSIVE MALTESE CUP CAKE IS. IT'S RUMORED TO BE IN THE HANDS OF A SHADY MAN IN THE UH-OH DISTRICT OF TOWN.

FOLLOW ME... I'LL TAKE YOU THERE.

HHMMM... UH-OH?

UH-OH! GREAT APHRODITE!

YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE MALTESE CUP CAKE?

BUT WHAT'S THIS ON THE SHELF UP HIGH? IT LOOKS LIKE HALF CUP CAKE - HALF MONSTER, COULD IT BE THE CURSED IDOL?

HA HE HE HA HA

...THE MALTESE CUP CAKE IDOL IS RUMORED TO BE THE ANCIENT FORERUNNER OF THE MODERN CUP CAKE... GREAT HISTORIC VALUE FOR ASTOR... BUT I'M INTERESTED IN WHAT IT'S WORTH!

BUT WHY SUCH A FUSS? WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT A STONE CUP CAKE?

MY CHARMING LADY OF GRACE AND STRENGTH-- YOU'VE JUST BEEN TRICKED. NOW MEET MY BOSS, THE CORRUPT CINDY BLUESTREET, BETTER KNOWN AS THE FAT LADY. YOU'LL LOVE HER WICKED, SNARLING LAUGH...

YOU WERE LOOKING FOR A SHADY MAN! INSTEAD, YOU FIND A BIG LADY WHO THROWS A BIG SHADOW-- HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HO-HO-HO... AND NOW-- YOU'LL PROMISE ME TO GIVE UP THE SEARCH FOR THE MALTESE CUP CAKE... ?! ? OR ELSE...

OOOOops... ANOTHER FALLEN IDOL!!

GREAT HERA... WHAT A CRUMBLY IDOL!

THAT'S NOT THE MALTESE CUP CAKE!!!

SO WHAT? MY SEARCH HAS FORTUNATELY LED ME TO THE ULTIMATE! A DELICIOUS HOSTESS® CUP CAKE! SCRUMPTIOUS, MOUTH-WATERING!

I LOVE DEVIL'S FOOD CAKE! AND SO MOIST!

AND NOW FOR MY SERIOUS WORK-- TO FIND A JAIL BIG ENOUGH TO HOLD THE FAT LADY AND HER EVIL FRIENDS.

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OKAY, YOU ASKED FOR IT! THOUGH IT'S A SHAME YOU AREN'T **HEAD MAN** IN ATLANTIS ANY MORE! THIS'D BE THE PERFECT TIME FOR A FEW CHORUSES OF--



--"HAIL TO THE CHIEF!" HA HA HA!

ASH!



HAILSTONES--BIG AS GOLF BALLS! NOW I KNOW WHY THE FLASH HAS SUCH RESPECT FOR THAT **WEATHER WAND!**

GUESS IT'S TIME TO CALL IN A FEW **REINFORCEMENTS!**

WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT, A TELEPATHIC COMMAND FANS OUT ACROSS THE SEASCAPE...



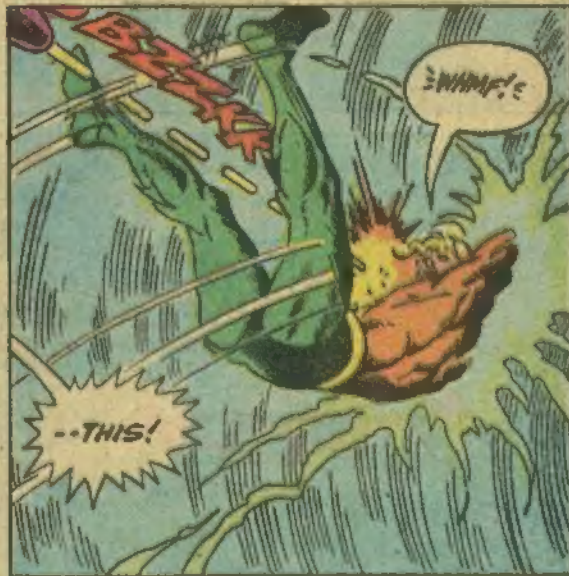
TO BE ANSWERED IN SECONDS BY A LIVING WALL OF SCALY-SKINNED ALLIES...

THE SPEED AND ANGLE THOSE FLYING FISH ARE USING SHOULD KEEP THEM FROM HARM--WHILE KEEPING THOSE HAILSTONES OFF MY BACK!



NOW TO TAKE CARE OF SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS!

FAT CHANCE, WATER-BOY! NOT WHEN THE LITTLE ADJUSTMENT I'VE MADE ON THIS **VIBROVECTOR** LETS ME PO--



WHAM!

--THIS!



HUSBAND...!

SPLASH

SHE HAS WAITED SILENTLY, PATIENTLY, WATCHING THE FATHER OF HER CHILD ENGAGE IN DEADLY COMBAT-- ONLY TO HAVE THAT GALLANT CHAMPION CAST RUMPLED AND BROKEN AT HER FEET...

NOW, SHE WILL WAIT--



--NO LONGER!

OKAY, WIZ, PACK IT IN OR I'LL--HUH?!



TEK. TEK, GIRLIE, YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME AS MUCH AS YOUR HUBBIE DID! THIS NIFTY WAND OF MINE IS JUST FULL OF SURPRISES!

THE... THE WATER-WALLS! TH-THEY'RE--



THAT'S RIGHT, LADY...

...SURPRISE!

CRASH



THE WHITE-CAPPED WATERS SETTLE SLOWLY, CALMING TO A TAME, INOFFENSIVE RIPPLE ... WHILE AT AN EXIT PORT IN THE DOMED CITY OF ATLANTIS, A RIPPLE OF FEAR GROWS EVER STRONGER...

I TELL YOU, MCANNA, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

LIAR! YOUR PURPLE EYES GIVE YOU AWAY! YOUR PEOPLE STOLE MY SON WITH SUCH LIES, BUT NOW--

--YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME GET HIM BACK!

GET SERIOUS, MAN, MY EYE COLOR IS A RANDOM MUTATION, NOT A RACIAL TRAIT! YOU CAN'T--

ENOUGH! YOU THINK ME A BUFFOON, A LUNATIC! BUT PERHAPS YOU'LL TAKE ME MORE SERIOUSLY--

--WHEN THE WOMAN IS DEAD!

NO!

THE WATER CRACKLES TO THE HEAT OF THE SEARING RAY BLAST-- A HARSH, WILD, SOUND...

...ONE QUITE IN CONTRAST TO THE SOFT, UNDULATING MOAN THAT CRAWLS FROM A BATTERED SEA KING'S THROAT...

...HHHHH...
WH. WHAT?

MIRAI!

HE IS CALLED
"HERO", AND AS
SUCH CAN SELDOM
AFFORD THE
GENTLER EMOTIONS
...AMONG THEM,
GRIEF...

HE KNOWS THE WOMAN IS BEYOND
HIS AID, AND SO HIS ANGUISH BOWS
TO LOGIC, AND HE DOES WHAT HE MUST...

AND MOMENTS LATER...

THE HERO
DR. VILKO, MY
FRIENDS. HE..
HE'LL KNOW WHAT
TO DO!

THE REST
OF YOU.
COME WITH
ME!

OBVIOUSLY, ANGER IS NOT
ONE OF THE GENTLER
EMOTIONS..

AND SOON, ON A DESERTED
BEACH IN THE FLORIDA KEYS...

USING MY POWERS TO
CARRY BOTH MYSELF AND
THIS TINKER-TOY GIZMO
ON THE WINDS WOULD
TAX MY HAND TOO
MUCH. BUT THIS
"COPTER" SHOULD
STILL GET US TO
CENTRAL CITY
BY--

HUH?!

YOU'RE NOT
GOING ANYWHERE,
WIZARD! ANYWHERE,
THAT IS--

--EXCEPT
JAIL!

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BUNKY--

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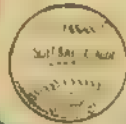
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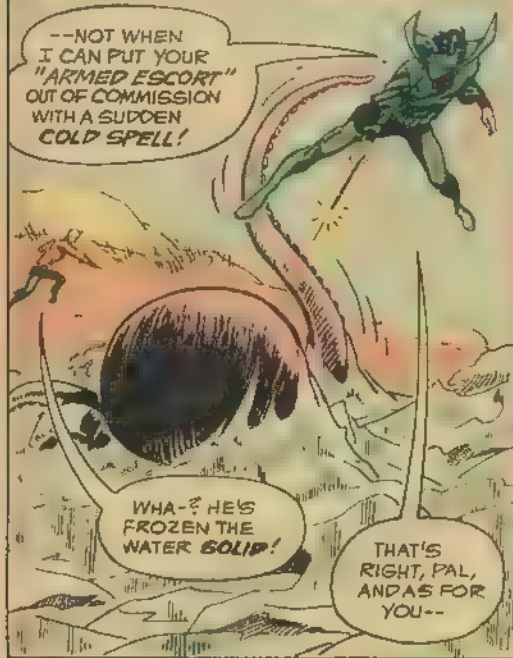
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--NOT WHEN
I CAN PUT YOUR
"ARMED ESCORT"
OUT OF COMMISSION
WITH A SUDDEN
COLD SPELL!

WHA-? HE'S
FROZEN THE
WATER **SOLID!**

THAT'S
RIGHT, PAL,
AND AS FOR
YOU--



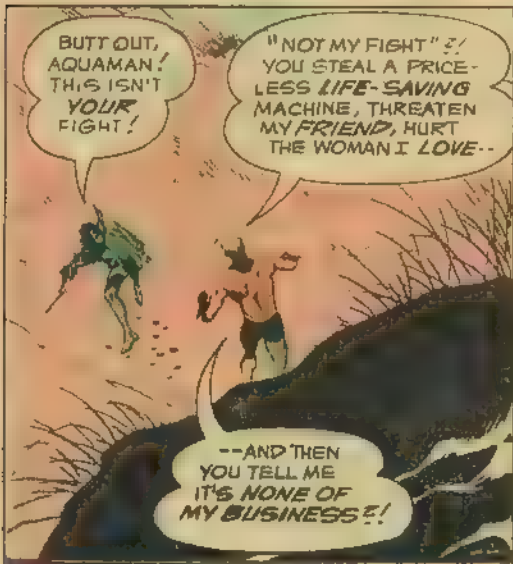
--EAT COLD
ICE,
FISH-MAN!

I DON'T NEED
THE SPEED OF THE
FLASH TO DODGE
YOUR ICICLES, WIZARD
-- I'VE GOT TALENTS OF
MY OWN! AND AS YOU
CAN SEE--



--I GET QUITE
A KICK OUT OF
USING THEM!

THWOK



BUTT OUT,
AQUAMAN!
THIS ISN'T
YOUR
FIGHT!

"NOT MY FIGHT"?!
YOU STEAL A PRICE-
LESS LIFE-**SAVING**
MACHINE, THREATEN
MY FRIEND, HURT
THE WOMAN I LOVE--

--AND THEN
YOU TELL ME
IT'S NONE OF
MY BUSINESS?!



WELL, I'M
SORRY, PUNK,
BUT I'M IN THIS
'TIL THE END!

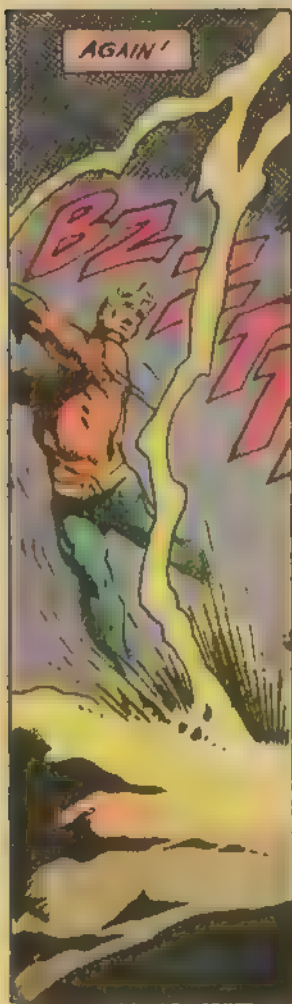
OKAY, PAL,
IF THAT'S THE
WAY YOU WANT IT,
THEN LET THAT
END--



LIKE BOLTS OF BLISTERING FIRE,
STREAMS OF SPARK-SPITTING
LIGHTNING SCREAM FROM THE
SKIES, ANSWERING THE SUMMONG
OF THE DIABOLICAL WEATHER WAND...



...CRASHING WITH DEADLY FINALITY
WHERE VILAINS FROM THE DEPTHS OF
DOOMING AGAINST ANIMUS...



CAN'T...KEEP
BLOCKING THEM
LIGHTNING BOLTS...
MUCH LONGER!
GOT TO DO
SOMETHING...
ANYTHING...BUT
WHAT--

WAIT! THAT
DEPRESSION
...WHERE THE
LIGHTNING
STRIKES!



THE HEAT HAS
FUSED THE SAND...
INTO GLASS! IT'S A
LONG SHOT...BUT I'VE
GOT TO HUNG! FORCE
THE GLASS...INTO
THE PROPER ANGLE...

...AND
JUST PRAY
THAT ITS
SURFACE
IS SHINY
ENOUGH TO
ACT LIKE--

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AND NOW...

WE INTERRUPT THIS COMIC TO BRING YOU A WORD FROM YOUR NEW PUBLISHER...

When you've got just one comic and a lot of time to kill, what is the only thing you can do?

Right. Read the comic again.

But supposing you've read it not just twice but three times, decided who wrote the jerk-iest letter on the letters page and spent at least three minutes wondering if those X-ray Specs really work and if so why haven't you sent away for them already? What then?

Well, in desperation, you might turn again to the beginning and read the old familiar names in tiny type at the bottom of page one. Sol Harrison, Jack Adler—yep, it's the same old DC. But wait. Wasn't Sol Vice-President before? It says President now. And Jack's Vice-President. And Joe Orlando's not just an editor, he's managing editor. And Vince Colletta's art director, and Paul Levitz is some impressive-sounding thing called editorial coordinator. Even a dingbat of modest intelligence can tell some kind of change is going on.

A more astute dingbat may notice something else. One of the old familiar names is nowhere to be found. And there in its place is a new name, never before seen in comics. Jenette Kahn. All signs seem to indicate that an unknown person of presumably female persuasion has become publisher of DC.

The inevitable questions arise. Who is she anyway? Does she have the necessary qualifications to be publisher of the largest comic company in the world? Can she type?

Yes. I can. Ten words a minute using two fingers. I also started three magazines which—strange to say—you might well be hoarding right next to your most prized comics.

Those of you tottering on the brink of second childhood will remember KIDS which I began seven years ago. It was—dare I say it—one of those truly nifty ideas—a magazine written and illustrated by kids for each other.

Everybody loved it. It was an enormous critical success. It also lost money. I learned four hundred and twenty-seven creative mistakes never to repeat on a business again. This encouraged me to start another magazine. I figured there were only so many errors one could make and I had used up a lot.

The new magazine was called DYNAMITE. DYNAMITE not only was one of those (dare I say it again?) truly nifty ideas, it was an enormous critical success... and it just happened to make money hand over fist!

Meanwhile, Xerox had jealously watched the explosion of DYNAMITE. Since they'd built a business on copying, they were not adverse to reproducing DYNAMITE's success. We became partners in SMASH, my third magazine. And it was while I was happily ensconced in SMASH's secret headquarters in upper Manhattan that Warner Publishing's Morgan Edge asked me how I'd like to be DC's Perry White.

You're right. Dare I say it still one more time? It was one of those truly nifty ideas. I said yes.

And that is my history in brief. In issues to come, I'll be mixing other equally relevant personal details (ton-
sils removed November 8, 1954) with the stuff that truly counts—what's happening here at Dynamic DC.

Until then, don't forget that you can tune in weekly on what we're putting out by calling our toll free Direct Currents Hot Line. It's 800-228-7760 no matter where you're calling from. Unless it's New York. In which case you should dial 800-442-8180.

Since it's December, I get to end my first public note by saying all kinds of nice things. To all of you out there—the happiest of holidays and the best of new years, not just from me but from the whole gang at DC.

Take Care—

Jenette

From Jack—

Please send this back to Adam for corrections and retouching. I'd hate to miss Neal's report by having a drawing like this published. Many thanks J



hair is now curly—on the other hand, it may be straight. Next month—no, better make it curly.

—nose looks like a "before" picture—on plastic surgeon's wall

Smooth out smile lines. Why do they look like wrinkles? (Are they wrinkles?)

I know I have big teeth, but this is ridiculous.

Why does this picture look like Mary Tyler Moore?

FROM THE DESK OF
JACK ADLER

DEAR JENETTE—

I WILL LET YOU KNOW THAT THIS DRAWING OF YOU BY NEAL IS NEVER PRINTED. NEAL IS AT THIS MOMENT MAKING THE CORRECTIONS YOU INDICATED AND I WILL USE THE CORRECTED ART AS SOON AS IT COMES BACK FROM HIS STUDIO.

Jack

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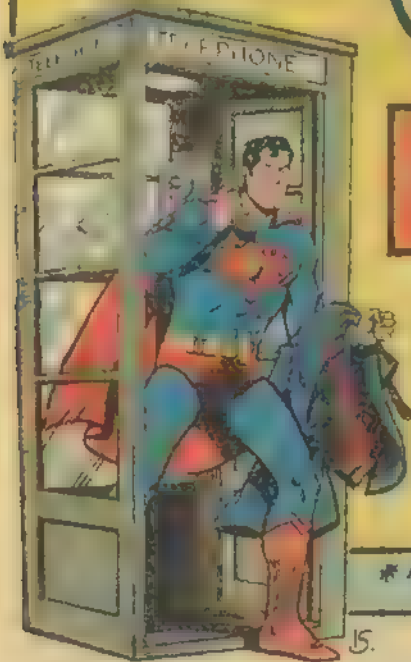
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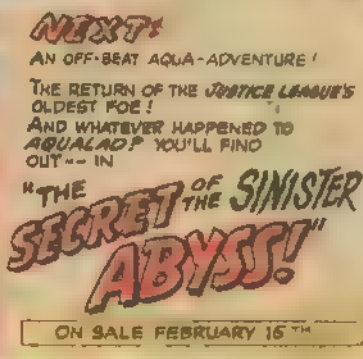
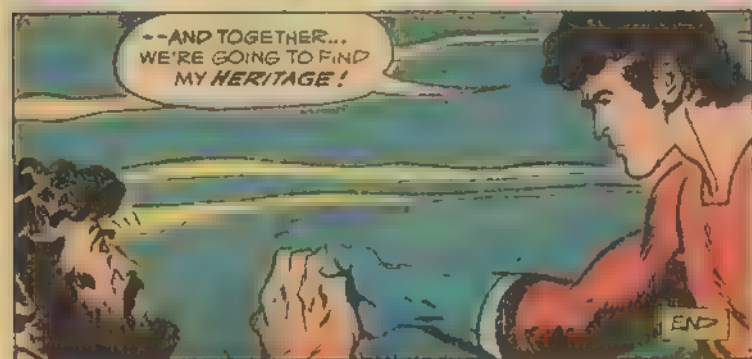
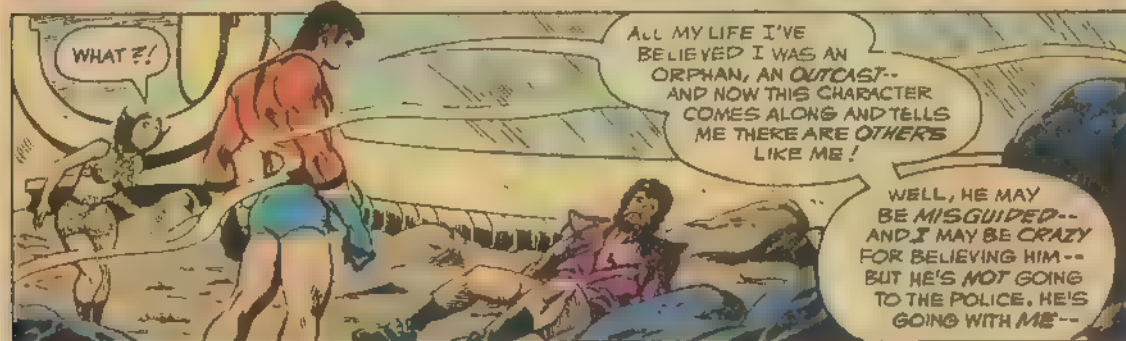
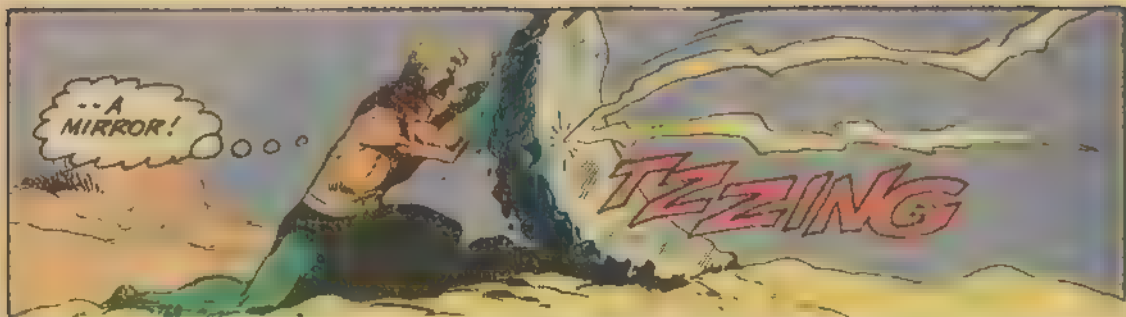
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JUSTICE-- YET THEY ARE
LOCKED IN A FIERCE DUEL--

WHAT CAN BE THE REASON
FOR SUCH ~~WASTE~~
SENSELESS COMBAT?
FOR THE STRANGE
ANSWER WE MUST
ACCOMPANY J'ONN
ON A--

RETURN TO

Destiny

HIS FACE
SET IN GRIM
LINES, THIS
EMISSARY
FROM BEYOND
THE STARS
SPEEDS
TOWARD
EARTH,
HIS
THOUGHTS
IN
TUMMON.

NOW HE SCANS THE
INSTRUMENT BOARD
AND HIS BREATH
CATCHES--

WAS IT HOURS OR EONS AGO
THAT HE HEARD THE LAST
WORDS OF HIS BEST FRIEND--?

SHOT BY...
SOL!

SOL! THAT'S
THE EARTHLING'S
WORD FOR THEIR
SUN!

I'M GOING TO
EARTH AND
REVENGE
RES!

NO! YOU
ARE NEEDED
HERE!

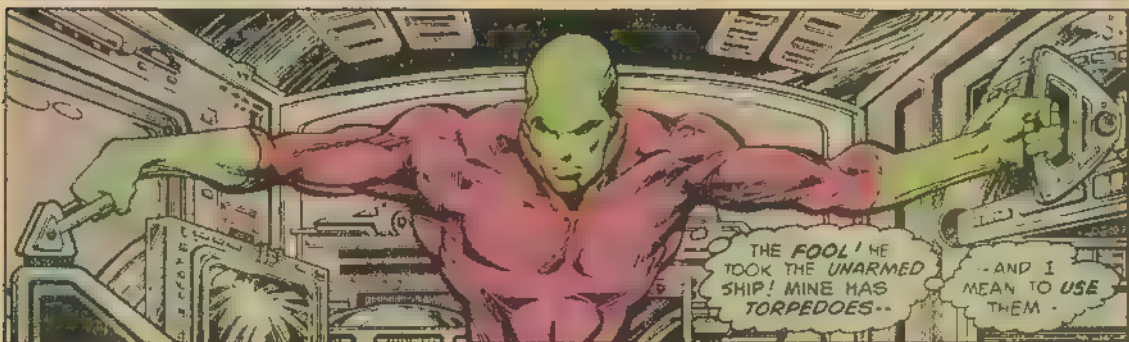
GRAB HIM!
AS COMMANDER
OF THE ARMY,
I ORDER IT!

BUT THE RESOURCEFUL
MARTIAN MADE
GOOD HIS
ESCAPE AND
IN A
SPACE
CRAFT
HURLED
INTO
THE
VOID

THEY WERE
MY FRIENDS--
YET ONE OF THEM
MUST BE A
KILLER!

THE SCREEN SHOWS
I'M BEING FOLLOWED!
BY N'OR COTT NO DOUBT!

AND J'ONN'S ASSUMPTION IS CORRECT, FOR--



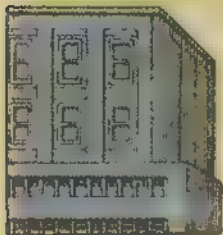
THE FOOL! HE
TOOK THE UNARMED
SHIP! MINE HAS
TORPEDOES--

--AND I
MEAN TO USE
THEM--

A SECOND LATER---



MEANWHILE, FAR BELOW, A
FAMILIAR FIGURE SKIMS THE
SKYSCRAPERS-- **SUPERGIRL**,
THE MAN OF STEEL'S COUSIN.

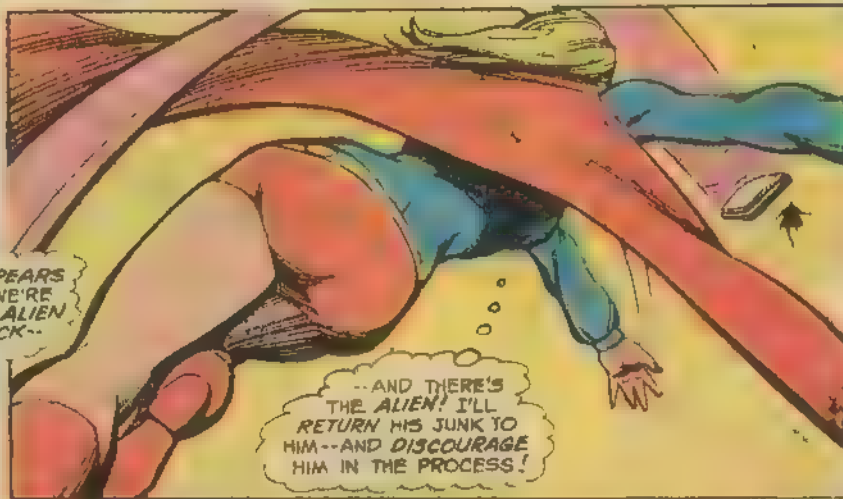


AN EXPLOSION
IN THE MIDDLE
ATMOSPHERE

FALLING DEBRIS--!
GOT TO CATCH IT
BEFORE SOMEONE
BELOW IS CLOBBERED!



IT APPEARS
THAT WE'RE
UNDER ALIEN
ATTACK--



--AND THERE'S
THE ALIEN! I'LL
RETURN HIS JUNK TO
HIM--AND DISCOURAGE
HIM IN THE PROCESS!

AT THAT INSTANT...

DATED CAN
BARELY SEE...!
I GOT OUT OF
THE SHIP
JUST IN
TIME!

I CAN FLY
IN EARTH'S
AIR..!

...
SHOULD
BE SAFE..

UNNGH

...AND IN HIS
BENUMBED STATE, HE
MISTAKES HER FOR AN ENEMY..

BUT HE IS ATTACKING
ME--AND HIS STRENGTH
IS NEARLY EQUAL
TO MINE, SO...

YES, HE'S
JOHN J'ONZZ--
AN EX JUSTICE
LEAGUE MEMBER!
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN
A FRIEND!

I HAVE A
FEELING I
MADE A
HORRIBLE
MISTAKE!

PERHAPS THIS
WILL BRING HIM TO
HIS SENSES!

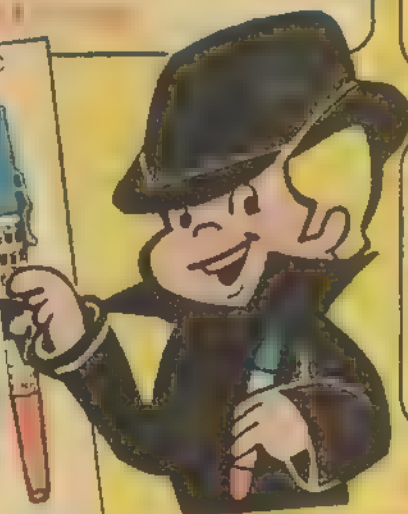
HOWEVER, SUPERGIRL
IS MISTAKEN--

I BARELY
TAPPED HIM...
AND HE'S HITTING
ME WITH ALL HE'S
GOT!

MY COUSIN WOULD PROBABLY
KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO...

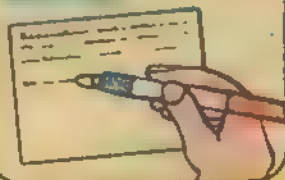
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FOR ONLY**



THEN -

**RUB WITH BLUE
CAPPED END AND
MESSAGE MAGICALLY
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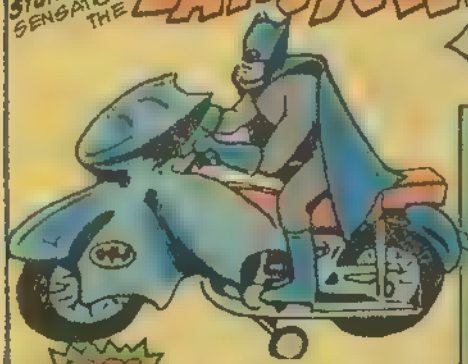
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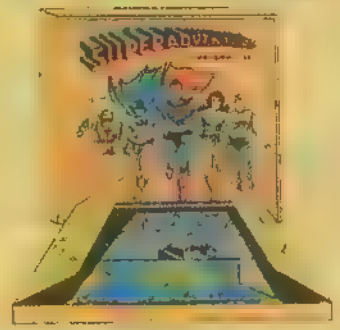
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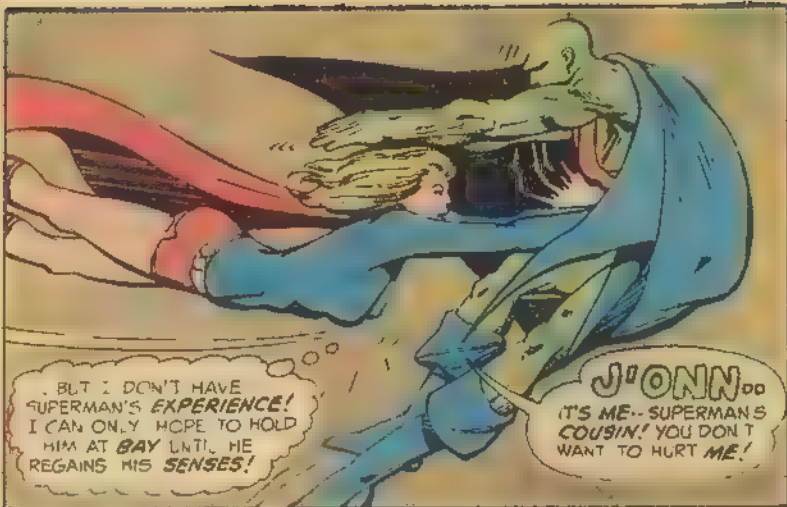
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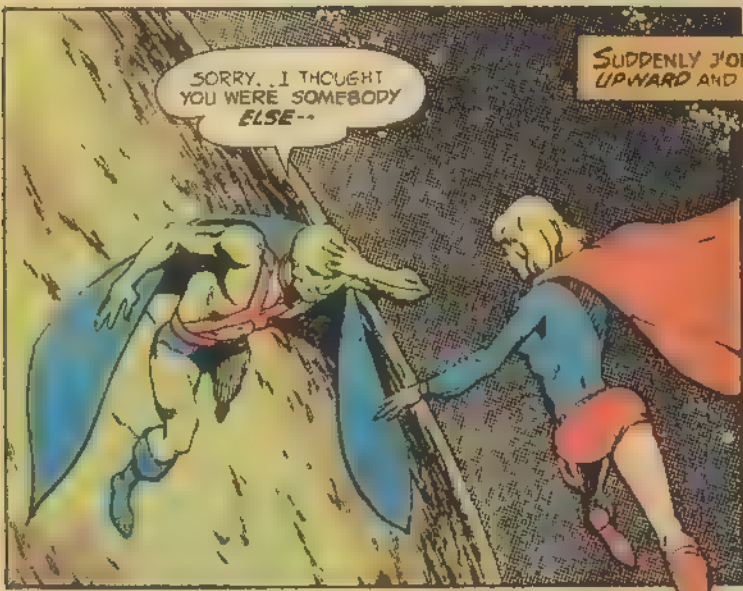


BUT I DON'T HAVE
SUPERMAN'S *EXPERIENCE!*
I CAN ONLY HOPE TO HOLD
HIM AT *BAY* UNTIL HE
REGAINS HIS *SENSES!*

J'ONN
IT'S ME--SUPERMAN'S
COUSIN! YOU DON'T
WANT TO HURT ME!



S-SUPERGIRL?

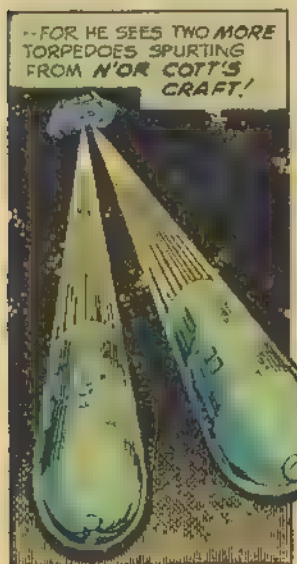


SORRY, I THOUGHT
YOU WERE SOMEBODY
ELSE--

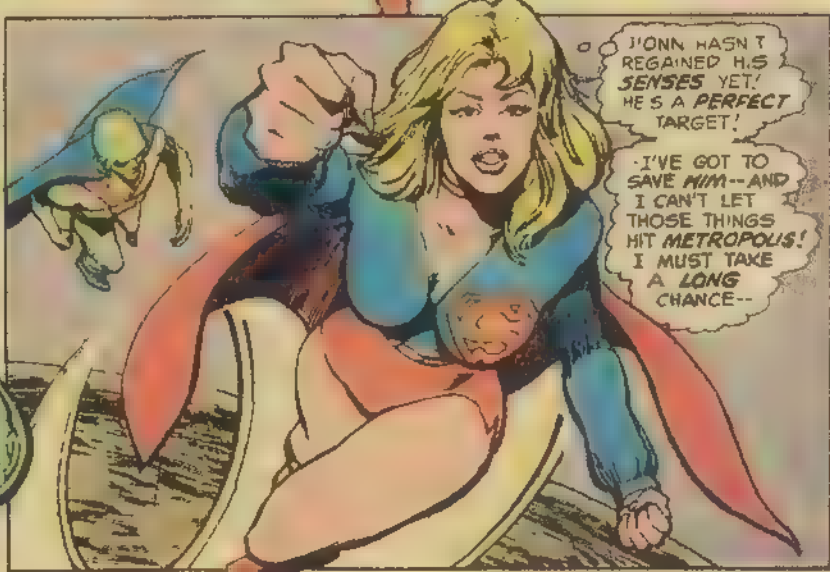
SUDDENLY J'ONN'S HEAD SNAPS
UPWARD AND HE GASPS--



**SUPERGIRL--
WATCH OUT!**

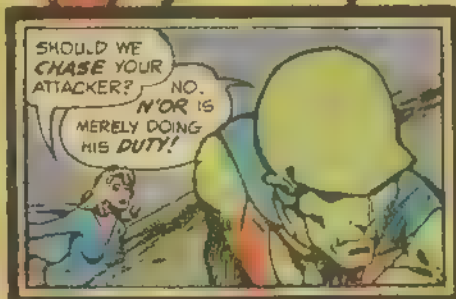
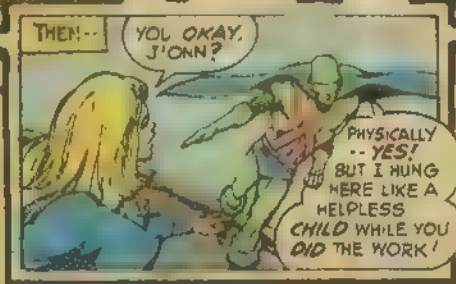
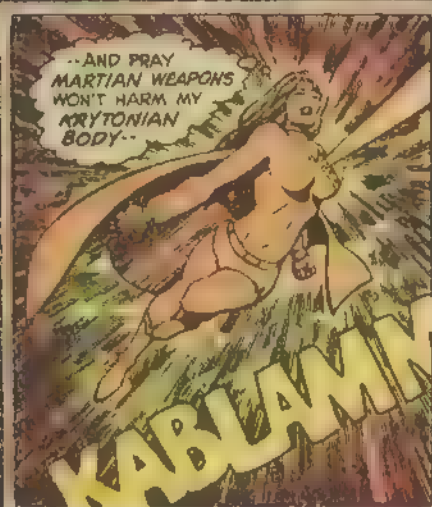


--FOR HE SEES TWO MORE
TORPEDOES SPURTING
FROM N'OR COTT'S
CRAFT!



J'ONN HASN'T
REGAINED HIS
SENSES YET!
HE'S A PERFECT
TARGET!

I'VE GOT TO
SAVE HIM--AND
I CAN'T LET
THOSE THINGS
HIT METROPOLIS!
I MUST TAKE
A LONG
CHANCE--



DATELINE: ADVENTURE

L-595

Before we begin our regularly scheduled letter column, let's have a hearty hand of welcome extended to David Michelinie, who comes on board this issue as Aquaman's regular writer. David has big plans for the Marine Marvel & Co., and we hope you'll join us in welcoming him.

• • • • •

Dear Sir,

The Shark! What a surprise that was. In fact, your whole new Aquaman series has been one big surprise package.

Suprise #1: Jim Aparo artwork! Absolutely stunning. He has to be the best artist for this series (except maybe for Nick Cardy).

Suprise #2: Decent scripting. Good writing is getting rather hard to come by today, with dialogue trying hard to be "relevant," (whatever that really means) and stiff, very cliched plots. ADVENTURE writers seem to know how to bypass all of these problems, making the reader relax and enjoy a truly fine magazine.

Suprise #3: the Black Manta... again?!? After just giving that lengthy praise of the writers, there is just one distressing point: the constant reappearances of the Black Manta. Sure, I enjoy seeing old foes of the ex-Sea King, but enough is enough! Manta was in Aquaman's initial test run (the 3-part back-up series). Then he was lurking around through the beginning of the just completed epic... during the middle... and here at the climax. And we can be sure that he'll be back in a couple of issues, since he's now heading off to find some lost tribes or something. C'mon you guys, there is such a thing as over-exposure.

All together, however, the series is doing great, and you can be sure I'll be first in line at the drugstore to buy #449. By the way, what's in the works for the gala event of #450?

Thomas J. Guilfoil
Indiana

ADVENTURE COMICS #450 caught us flat-footed, we're afraid. But we did manage to sneak in one special treat, the reappearance of Supergirl in ADVENTURE—a magazine she headlined for almost four years.

• • • • •

Dear Joe,

How could you do this to us? First you start a story on the long-awaited origin of Aqualad and his family, and then you say it will be unfolded in the next five or six issues? Issues which are printed BI-MONTHLY! I don't mean to say that you should rush into it, but don't merely mention it as you did last issue.

By the way, I think that last issue was superb. The turn was fantastic, I enjoyed every minute of it.

Gina Spiezia
Brooklyn, New York

In our usual 11-page space, we don't have much choice about developing sub-plots slowly. Unless the story directly involves Aquaman, we have a very limited amount of space that we can spare from the main story. In Aqualad's case, that means that you can expect a dramatic development in next issue's tale... and a stunning surprise in the book-lengther that follows in #452!

• • • • •

Dear Joe and Paul,

"Crown, Crisis and Cataclysm" was a triumph. No, make that another in a long list of triumphs. Everything that Joe, Paul, and Jim do well seems to come together in ADVENTURE. The Sea King's maddening frustration has been an almost tangible element throughout the series, but it was especially intense in #448. On a wider scale, the Karshon/Shark epic gave a great boost to the characterization of all the cast members. Really, though, lengthy adventures and intensified character study have always been part of the Aquaman mythos—even in the Giordano era when such things were not in vogue, as they are today.

Karshon's dual identity caught me completely off guard. I was convinced that he was tied to the aliens who tried to conquer the Earth in AQUAMAN #50-52. Those were classic issues, and I got the impression that the Karshon mystery was tied to a formidable foe in Aquaman's past. The aliens and Ocean Master (who were working together at one point—I had this fleeting idea that Karshon might have been Orm in disguise) were about the only Aquaman foes that hadn't returned in the last few issues. Ah well, you win some and...

I've got to comment on Jim Aparo's graphics. I was thumbing through my Aquaman collection yesterday, and it's amazing to see how Jim's style has matured and developed since his early days. It's a shame that he can't give his time and talents to more than two magazines.

Kevin L. Callahan
136 Eastwood Place
Brea, California 92621

Thanks, Kevin, and to all of you who took the time to write in complimenting the Karshon wrap-up. We didn't receive a single unfavorable letter on #448, and it really set our typewriters to glowing with pride.

• • • • •

Next issue, an off-beat little tale takes Aquaman on an undersea journey... with nary a super-villain on the scene. But that doesn't mean it's a peaceful journey...

Plus the next chapter of the Manhunter From Mars serial, as we learn the identity of "The Suspect" Be there.

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GIANT!

204

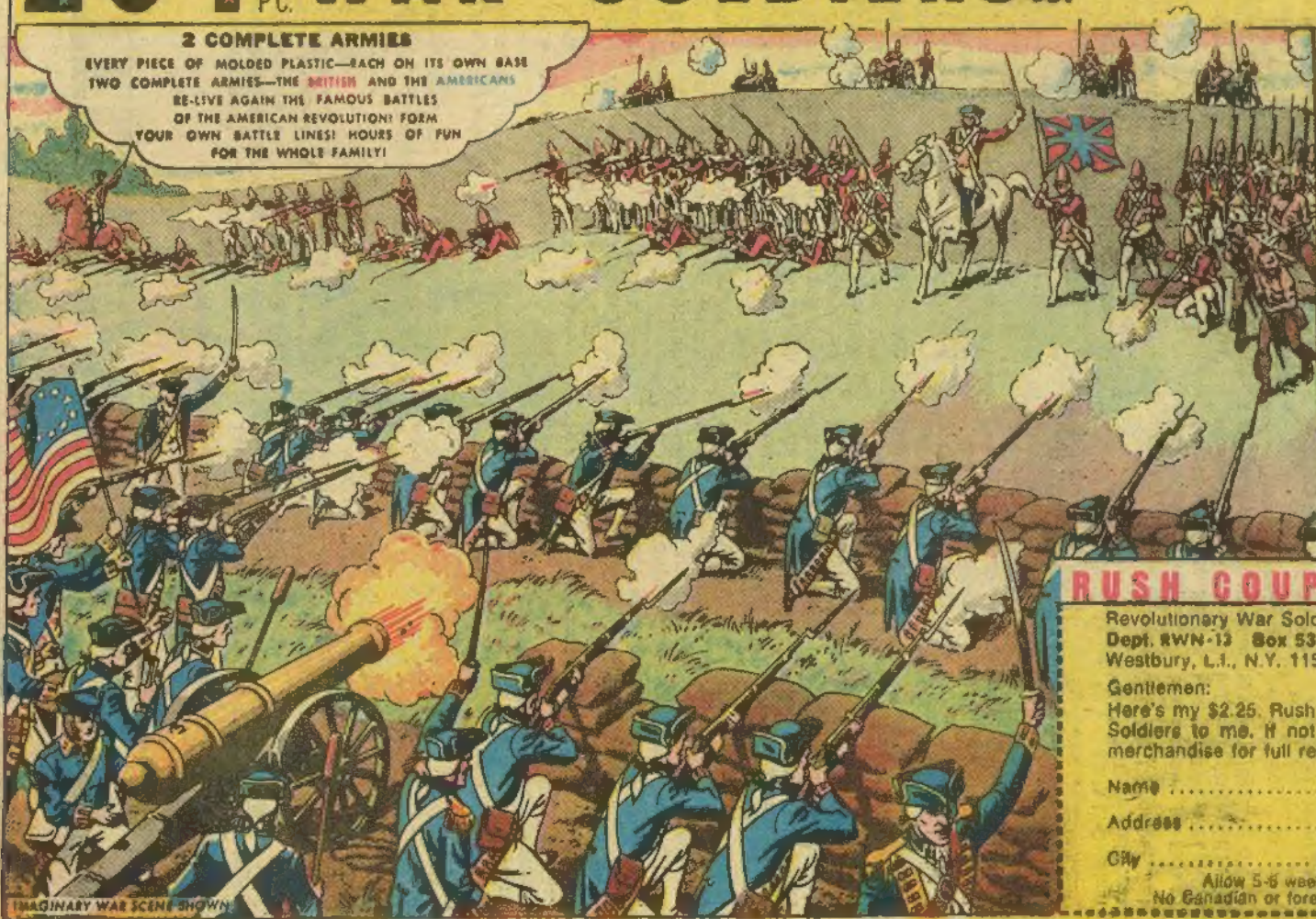
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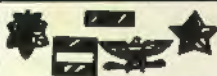
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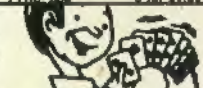
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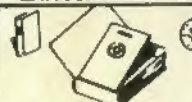
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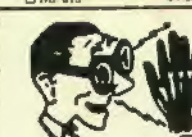
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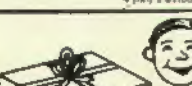
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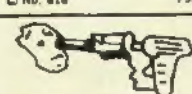
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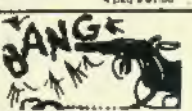
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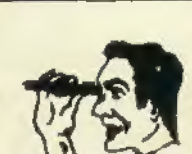
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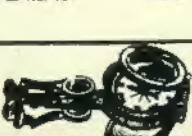
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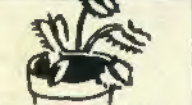
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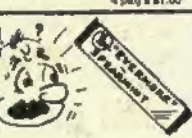
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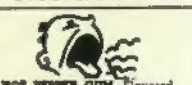
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